



Medical Quality Assurance Commission

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2012 Best of Boards Award Recipient -Administrators in Medicine

2014 Best of Boards Honorable Mention -Administrators in Medicine

Promoting patient safety and enhancing the integrity of the profession through licensing, discipline, rule-making, and education.

Overview

- The Commission successfully completed a pilot project in 2013 which resulted in permanent statutory authority
- 21 members: 13 MDs, 2 PAs, 6 public members
- 45 staff, \$14.8M biennial budget
- The Commission licenses 31,000 physicians and physician assistants

Significant Accomplishments

- Adopted social media and telemedicine guidelines
- Adopted chronic noncancer pain management rules
- Established rule regulating office-based surgery
- Established rule regulating non-surgical medical cosmetic procedures
- 83% of investigations completed on time in FY 2015
- 88.5% of legal processes completed on time in FY 2015
- 98% of disciplinary orders in compliance with sanction guidelines
- Created legal orders that are more clear, consistent, and transparent

Actions in Fiscal Year 2015

- Issued 2,587 new licenses
- Received 1,476 complaints/reports
- Investigated 815 complaints/reports
- Completed legal process on 797 complaints/reports
- Issued 73 disciplinary orders
- Summarily suspended or restricted 11 licenses
- Actively monitoring 192 practitioners
- 42 practitioners successfully completed compliance programs

Current Issues

- Conducting rule-making to update physician assistant practice law
- Monitoring national licensure legislation
- Studying feasibility of an Interstate Physician Licensure Compact
- Exploring requirements to ensure continuing competency
- Increasing educational outreach to profession and public
- Developing stakeholder partnerships to reduce medical errors
- Building demographic database of Washington practitioners
- Studying disciplinary recidivism among practitioners